

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. A marked-up copy, showing the changes made to the claims, is attached.

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1. (Amended) A process for producing a fibrous material comprising:  
providing a spun yarn by melt spinning a thermoplastic resin; and  
subjecting the spun yarn to a glycol treatment in which the spun yarn is contacted with an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol.

2. (Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the glycol treatment is at least one treatment selected from among

(1) a treatment for applying the glycol to the yarn;  
(2) a treatment for replacing a releasable component releasable into an ink in the yarn by the glycol to reduce an amount of the releasable component; and

(3) a treatment for dissolving or emulsifying the releasable component in the yarn in the glycol.

3. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 1 or 2, which comprises steps of:

treating a melt spun yarn with a spinning oil,  
stretching the resultant unstretched yarn, and  
treating the stretched yarn with a finishing oil.

4. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 3, wherein the glycol treatment is conducted as at least one step selected from among

a) a step of contacting a spun yarn with the glycol which is contained in a spinning oil at the time of melt spinning to apply the glycol to the spun yarn;

b) a step of contacting an unstretched yarn with a treating agent containing the glycol after melt spinning;

c) a step of contacting an unstretched melt spun yarn with a treating agent containing the glycol during a step of stretching the unstretched yarn;

d) a step of contacting a stretched yarn with the glycol which is contained in a finishing oil; and

e) a step of contacting a yarn obtained after the stretching with a treating agent containing the glycol.

5. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the content of the glycol in the spinning oil in the step a) or in the finishing oil in the step d) is at least 80% by weight.

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6. (Amended) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the releasable component in the yarn is at least one of additives contained in the thermoplastic resin which constitutes the yarn and components derived from the spinning oil and finishing oil attached to the yarn.

7. (Twice Amended) The process according to Claim 6, wherein an amount released upon contact with an ink-jet ink of components derived from the oils, which releasable into the ink-jet ink, is at most 100 ppm based on the weight of the ink.

8. (Amended) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the releasable components are components detected by using at least one of silicon, phosphorus and potassium as an index.

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9. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 8, wherein the pH of the ink-jet ink is from at least 6 to lower than 11.

10. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 9, wherein the finishing oil is a finishing oil for filament, multifilament, tow and staple fiber.

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11. (Twice Amended) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

12. (Amended) The process according to Claim 11, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity and has a dew point of at least 65°C.

13. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 11, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

14. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the treating agent containing the glycol is composed of the glycol alone.

15. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 14, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

16. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 15, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

17. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 16, wherein the glycol is combined with a lubricant for a cutter blade for fiber or a lubricant for a sliding part of a mold for a hot-molded material.

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BH 18. (Twice Amended) A fibrous material produced in accordance with the production process according to Claim 1.

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19. (Amended) An ink-absorbing member which can deliverably hold an ink-jet ink therein, comprising the fibrous materials according to Claim 18.

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20. (Amended) A fibrous material composed of a thermoplastic resin, to which an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol is applied.

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21. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 20, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

22. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 20 or 21, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

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23. (Twice Amended) The fibrous material according to Claim 22, wherein the glycol is acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site

of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

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24. (Amended) The fibrous material according to Claim 23, wherein the glycol exhibits an anionionic surface activity and has a dew point of at least 65°C.

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25. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 23, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

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26. (Amended) A fibrous material composed of a thermoplastic resin, comprising releasable components derived from treatment oils attached to the fibrous material, wherein an amount of the releasable components released upon contact with an ink-jet ink is at most 100 ppm based on the weight of the ink.

27. (Amended) The fibrous material according to Claim 26, wherein the releasable components are components detected by using at least one of silicon, phosphorus and potassium as an index.

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28. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 26 or 27, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

29. (Unamended From Previous Version) The fibrous material according to Claim 28, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

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30. (Twice Amended) An ink-absorbing member which can deliverably hold an ink-jet ink therein, comprising the fibrous materials according to Claim 20.

31. (Amended) A process for treating an ink-absorbing member which can deliverably hold an ink-jet ink therein, the process comprising the steps of:  
treating a molding comprising a fibrous material composed of a thermoplastic resin with a treating agent containing an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol.



32. (Amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

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33. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 32, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity and has a cloud point of at least 65°C.

34. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 32, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

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35. (Amended) The process according to Claim 34, wherein the treating agent containing the glycol is composed of the glycol alone.

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36. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 35, wherein the glycol is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an alkali.

37. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 36, wherein the aqueous solution of the alkali is an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide.

38. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 37, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

39. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 38, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

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40. (Twice Amended) The process according to Claim 39, further comprising a releasable component derived from treatment oils added to the fibrous material, wherein an amount of the releasable component released upon contact with an ink jet ink is at most 100 ppm based on the weight of the ink.

41. (Amended) The process according to Claim 40, wherein the releasable components are detected by using at least one of silicon, phosphorus and potassium as an index.

42. (Twice Amended) An ink-absorbing member treated in accordance with the treatment process according to any one of Claims 31 to 41.

43. (Amended) An ink-absorbing member comprising a fibrous material composed of a thermoplastic resin and constructed to deliverably hold an ink-jet ink therein, and a releasable component derived from treatment oils attached to the fibrous material, wherein an amount of the releasable component released upon contact with an ink-jet ink is at most 100 ppm based on the weight of the ink.

44. (Amended) The ink-absorbing member according to Claim 43, wherein the releasable components are detected by using at least one of silicon, phosphorus and potassium as an index.

45. (Amended) The ink-absorbing member according to Claim 44, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one

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selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

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46. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink-absorbing member according to Claim 45, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a resin for obtaining a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

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47. (Twice Amended) An ink tank container for an ink-jet head comprising an ink chamber having an opening part communicating with air and an ink feed opening connecting to the ink-jet head, wherein the ink-absorbing member according to any one of Claims 19, 30 or 43 to 46 is fitted within a region including the ink feed opening in the ink chamber.

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48. (Unamended From Previous Version) The ink tank container according to Claim 47, wherein the ink-absorbing member is provided in contact with the ink feed opening.

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49. (Twice Amended) An ink tank container for an ink-jet head comprising an ink chamber having an opening part

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communicating with air, and a connecting chamber connectable to the ink-jet head, the connecting chamber communicating with the ink chamber and being constructed to feed an ink from the ink chamber to the ink-jet head through a connecting opening to the ink-jet head, wherein the ink-absorbing member according to any one of Claims 19, 30 or 43 to 46 is fitted within the connecting chamber for providing a negative pressure.

50. (Amended) The ink tank container according to Claim 49, wherein the ink-absorbing member is provided in contact with the connecting opening.

51. (Twice Amended) An ink tank in which an ink-jet ink is charged into the ink chamber of the ink tank container according to Claim 49.

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52. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink-jet cartridge comprising the ink tank according to Claim 51 and an ink-jet head for ejecting an ink contained in the ink tank on a recording medium to conduct recording.

53. (Unamended From Previous Version) An ink-jet apparatus comprising the ink-jet cartridge according to Claim 52 and a carriage on which the ink-jet cartridge is detachably mounted.

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54. (Amended) A treating process for regenerating ink absorbing properties of an ink-absorbing member composed principally of a fibrous material, the process comprising the step of:

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treating the ink-absorbing member with a residual ink held therein with a treating agent containing an ethylene oxide adduct of a glycol.

55. (Amended) The process according to Claim 54, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

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56. (Amended) The process according to Claim 55, wherein the glycol exhibits nonionic surface activity and has a dew point of at least 65°C.

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57. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 55, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is from 3 to 30.

58. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to any one of Claims 54 to 57, wherein the treating agent containing the glycol is composed of the glycol alone.

59. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 58, wherein the glycol is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an alkali.

60. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 59, wherein the aqueous solution of the alkali is an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide.

61. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 60, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene,

polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

62. (Unamended From Previous Version) The process according to Claim 61, wherein the fibrous material is a heat-adhesive fibrous material.

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B13 63. (Twice Amended) The process according to Claim 62, further comprising a releasable component derived from treatment oils attached to the fibrous materials, wherein an amount of the releasable component released upon contact with an ink-jet ink is reduced to at most 100 ppm based on the weight of the ink.

64. (Amended) The process according to Claim 63, wherein the releasable components are detected by using at least one of silicon, phosphorus and potassium as an index.

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Please add Claims 65 to 78, as follows:

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B14 65. (New) An ink jet contacting member comprising the fibrous material according to Claim 18.



66. (New) An ink jet contacting member according to Claim 65, wherein the glycol treatment has been conducted so that ink-jet ink which contacts with the fibrous material contains a material derived from treatment oils for the spun yarn in an amount of not more than 100 ppm based on the weight of the ink.

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67. (New) An ink jet contacting member according to Claim 65, wherein the material is measurable by using at least one of silicon, phosphorus and potassium as an index.

68. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 18, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

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69. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 68, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity and has a dew point of at least 65 °C.

70. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 68, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-

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tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide is from 3 to 30.

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71. (New) The fibrous material according to Claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

72. (New) An ink contacting member comprising the fibrous material according to Claim 20.

73. (New) The ink contacting member according to Claim 72, wherein the glycol is an acetylene glycol having a triple bond, and having at least one side chain at a central site of a linear main chain, with ethylene oxide added to the side chain.

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74. The ink contacting member according to Claim 73, wherein the glycol exhibits a nonionic surface activity and has a dew point of at least 65 °C.

75. (New) The ink contacting member according to Claim 73, wherein the glycol is an ethylene oxide adduct of 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide is from 3 to 30.

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76. (New) The ink contacting member according to Claim 72, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, polymethylpentene and ethylene-olefin copolymers.

77. (New) The ink contacting member according to Claim 72, further comprising a releasable component releasable into ink-jet ink, the releasable component being releasable in an amount not more than 100 ppm based on the weight of the ink.

78. (New) The ink contacting member according to Claim 77, wherein the component is measurable by using at least one of silicon, phosphorous and potassium as an index.

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